

and Shaw's participation.

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With the 25th anniversary of the assassination coming up, is there any possibility that you will do any kind of talk show? The airwaves will be filled with Gerald Rivers and Jack Andersons and other disinformation. It would be nice if the public got to hear someone who knows what he's talking about.

On VCR: To my knowledge, all VCRs have timing devices. So you could set the VCR to record a ballgame at 10pm and go to sleep. The only problem is if the game goes into extra innings (assuming it's baseball), so I always set the time for longer than actually needed. One other problem is avoiding the sports section and the radio, so you don't know the results in advance.

On the Orioles: Obviously, I am not as familiar with the team or their minor league system. But if they can rebuild without any free agents that's great. The problem with that is the wait for players to emerge. Even the most loyal fan will get impatient. When the Mets went into a nosedive in the 70's, New Yorkers gave up on them. Shea Stadium was empty - there'd be 6 or 7,000 at a game. This doesn't usually happen in New York. But after 4 or 5 bad seasons, you get frustrated seeing your team get beat. My feeling with the O's is that they need pitching. You're not going to win with Jay Tibbs out there. Tibbs pitched

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for Cincinnati. He had good minor league stats, but could never get it together in the majors. He was traded to the Expos. He got bombed in the majors and was sent to the minors and pitched well. Now, the same thing in Baltimore. I just don't think he has it. Perhaps if they trade off veterans for prospects (like Pittsburgh did last season, they can expedite matters) Cincinnati, on the other hand, is a few players away. They never replaced Dave Parker's bat in their trade to Oakland. Jose Rijo turned out to be a good pitcher, but there was still a hole in the batting order. With no one to bat behind Eric Davis, the opposing pitchers pitch around him. So, if they can plug a few holes and do something about Marge Schott (an owner who make George Steinbrenner almost seem palatable), I think they can challenge L.A. next year. It's very odd to live in L.A. and root against the Dodgers.

Things are hectic with the show back in production. GOLDEN GIRLS (the show I write for) was nominated for a number of Emmy Awards, so I get to attend the ceremony (although I am not up for anything). It's exciting to go, knowing the show and people I work with are considered among the best. The award isn't important, it's just nice to have your peers think highly of what you do. I'm not wild about dressing up, but then how many times do I have to put on a tux?

I hope all is well with you and your wife. Take care.

Robert